GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7809
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2002
STORAGE CAPACITY
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether grain output recorded 211 mt. tonnes during the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, whether coarse cereals too have gone up impressively in production alongside staple grain rice and wheat;

(c) whether the Union Government have made sufficient provisions for storing the same;

(d) if so, the storage capacity at present; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to see that all domestic production is fully kept in the godowns?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The production of rice, wheat, coarse cereals and total foodgrains during 2001-2002 is expected to be considerably higher than that in 2000-01 as may be seen from the table below:

(million tonnes)

Crop/Group	Estimated Production	
	2000-01	2001-02+
Rice	84.87	90.75
Wheat	68.76	73.53
Coarse Cereals	31.62	33.10
Total Foodgrains	195.92	211.17

+ As per the Advance Estimates on 5.4.2002.

(c),(d)&(e): The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is the main agency which provides thecapacity for storage of foodgrains. Besides constructing its own godowns, FCI also hires storage capacity from other sources such as the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs), State Governments and private partiesThe storage capacity of CWC andSWCs is also utilised for storing other notified commodities like fertilizers, seeds, etc. and industrial goods. Against the storage capacity of 568.80 lakh tonnes available for storing foodgrains with FCI, CWC, SWCs and other State agencies, the total stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool held by FCI and State agencies as on 1.4.2002 was 510.23 lakh MT.

During the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007), FCI plans to construct 6.78 lakh MT ofstorage capacity, out of which, in the current Annual Plan 2002-03, FCI plans to construct astorage capacity of 1.36 lakh MT. In order to augment storage capacity, FCI has given 7-years` guarantee of utlisation for the creation of 85.37 lakh MT additional storage capacity in the major procuring States. Under the National Storage Policy announced by the Government, 7-years` guarantee for 100% capacity utilisation has been provided to private sector for construction of godowns to the tune of 5.71 lakh MT on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis at the locations identified by FCI. The Government have also recently launched `Gram Bhandaran Yojana` which will also supplement the storage capacity.